

## Renewal of Baptism and the Celebration of a New Name

### Introduction to the Service

Beloved in Christ:

At our baptisms we were often given our Christian names  
as we were initiated into Christ's holy church.

As the Spirit directs our lives, some of us find  
the need to change our names to fit the holy path God opens before us,  
as we are incorporated into the Divine's loving acts of salvation,  
giving us new birth through the water and the Spirit.

All of this has been God's gift always offered to us unconditionally.

### Sharing a New Name

Just as our God has received many names through time,  
and has invited those who follow from time to time to do the same.

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you wish to declare before the congregation a new name?

**I rejoice to do so.**

What is the name by which you wish to be known?

**I am to be called \_\_\_\_\_ and my pronouns are \_\_\_\_\_.**

Beloved of the household of God it is with shared joy that I present to you \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_,  
Pronoun \_\_\_\_\_ is a beloved child of God.

*(All respond) \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_, we are honored to know your name.*

### Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the eternal covenant of grace declared at our baptism, acknowledge God's continued shaping of our lives and affirm our continuing relationship with Christ and the fallible church.

Do you renounce unhealthy spiritual forces, reject the destructive social privileges given by the world and repent of your personal and communal sins?

**I do.**

Do you accept the divine gift of prevenient grace that empowers you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in the multitude of ways they might present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess that Jesus Christ is at the center of your life,  
placing your faith in this gracious relationship,  
and promise to care for Christ found in all who are vulnerable and in need,  
joining with the Church which Christ has open to all,  
of every gender expression, sexual orientation, cultural and language group?

**I do.**

By the sanctifying grace given to you,

will you be open to the questions the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and others,  
and allow others to experience the perfect love of Christ through your life?

**I will.**

Do you believe in divine creativity and imagination?

**I believe in a creativity and imagination that continually brings change to our  
evolving world.**

Do you believe in sacrificial divine Love.

**I believe that in the beginning was Love,  
this Love was with God  
and that this Love was God.**

**This Love was with God from the very beginning.**

**Through this Love all things have come into being.**

**Everything and everyone that has come into being through Love has life,**

**A life that still is a love for all people**

**a love that dwells in the midst of hatred,**

**and hatred can never overpower it.**

Do you believe in the divine presence?

**I believe in the presence of love, joy, peace and patience.**

**I believe in the presence of kindness, goodness and faithfulness.**

**I believe in the presence of gentleness and self-control**

**and I believe this presence is transforming me and the world.**

### **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

Love dwells with you.

**Love also dwells with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Love:

When everything was a chaotic mess,

You imagined that these turbulent waters could be so much more  
and created everything with delight and proclaimed it good.

During the disastrous days of Noah

you provided a safe space in the ark upon the water.

You provided the rainbow as a promise that You would be a safe space for us all.

When you saw people were denied their human rights

You delivered them on an improbable path through the sea.

Through the Jordan River You brought them into a land filled with hope.

**We are encouraged by our hardships,  
observing that hardship develops perseverance,  
perseverance strengthens our character,  
and character produces in us, hope,  
and this hope does not disappoint,  
since the love of God has been poured into our hearts**

**by the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us.** (Romans 5:5-6)

At just the right time You sent Jesus,  
nurtured in Mary's womb,  
baptized in the river Jordan  
and led by the Holy Spirit.  
Jesus invited the disciples to share in a baptism of death and resurrection  
and to make disciples of everyone.

**You are with us always, even to the end of time.** (Matthew 28:20)

Holy Spirit drench us with Your sacred presence.  
Quench the thirsting of our souls.  
Cause a spring of living water to well up from deep within us  
that we might share Your grace with others,  
just as You have shared Your grace with us.  
That all might share in this richest of blessings.

**To the only one who can keep us from failing  
and present us blameless and joyfully in glory,  
to the only God, only Savior, who through  
Jesus Christ has revealed fully: glory, majesty,  
power and authority, today and always.** (Jude 24-24)  
**Amen.**

### **Reaffirmation of Faith**

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**Amen.**

Be immersed in perfect love,  
that being a born of water and Spirit  
You may be fully alive,  
as God creates all things new in you.

**Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

God knows your name.

**It is written upon your heart.**

The sound of it causes God to rejoice.

**We share in this divine joy when we speak it out loud.**

Let us sing God's praises together

**because God accepts us for who we are and will become.**

One whose name is found in silence  
whose name has never been spoken,  
whose image has never been seen,  
You are beyond all labels.  
You have created us to be pixels in Your own diverse image.  
Each of us is essential to Your revelation.  
Each missing person blurs Your true image,  
obscuring Your presence in our world.  
This is why You call us each by name,  
one that is written upon our hearts.  
You have formed the perfect place for each and every one of us,  
so that Your dazzling glory might be seen everywhere.

Your acceptance makes us smile.  
Your inclusion makes us sing.  
You desire for us to join together,  
with those we love and those we hate;  
with those we understand and those we don't;  
with those whom we disagree and those whom we agree  
to sing your praise.  
With all the creatures who dwell upon the earth  
and with all the hosts of heaven to proclaim before the Universe:

**Holy, Loving, Amazing God full of kindness and mercy.  
Heaven and earth reverberates with your glory.  
Hosanna in the Highest.  
Blessed are all who receive their true name from the Lord.  
Hosanna in the Highest.**

You are holy and Your love is amazing.  
You are seen so clearly in the life of Christ.  
Jesus received John's baptism of repentance,  
repenting of all the sins of our shared humanity.  
Jesus received Your Spirit's call to fast and pray.  
Jesus joined with You in Your care for the needs of those ignored by others.  
Jesus joined in with You as You healed the sick and raised the dead.  
Jesus shared Your words of blessing with the poor and the grieving.  
Jesus did nothing without You, and neither do we.

When Jesus left the place of honor,  
it was because You were already stooping to wash feet.  
Jesus saw that You did not care who they were

nor what they would do in the future, just their need.  
What Jesus saw was that You loved them,  
and now Jesus invites us to do the same.

When Jesus took the bread of Passover,  
it was because You first took the bread,  
and gave Christ words of thanksgiving to say,  
and as he broke the bread  
he heard Your invitation:  
“Take and eat, this is my body given and broken for you.”  
What Jesus saw was that You loved them,  
and now invites us to do the same.

When Jesus took the Passover cup  
it was because You first took the cup  
and gave Christ the words of thanksgiving to say,  
and as he passed the cup, he heard Your invitation:  
“Drink with me, for this is the cup of my blood,  
sacrificed freely with faith in God’s eternal covenant of grace,  
granting the forgiveness of all of your sins, and those of the whole of creation.”  
What Jesus saw was that You loved them,  
and now invites us to do the same.

We want to do the same.  
We want to love the same.  
We want to forgive the same.  
We want to live into the divine mystery that our lives now boldly proclaim:

**Christ died for me and for you.**  
**Christ is alive in me and in you.**  
**When Christ returns you will see Christ in me, and I will see Christ in you.**

Baptism Water, Baptism Fire  
encompass these gifts of bread and wine  
allowing them to be transformed for us  
into the body and blood of Christ sacrificed for us.

Baptism Water, Baptism Fire  
encompass these lives of ours  
allowing them to be transformed for the world  
into Your church, the body and the bride of Christ sacrificed for others.

Baptism Water, Baptism Fire

be with those seeking to understand who they are,  
be with those You are seeking to include in the care of the household of faith,  
be with those who are listening to hear the new name You whisper in their souls.

We pray in the name of Jesus,  
through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
as worshipers of the Loving Creator of us all,  
who deserves all glory, honor, and praise.

**Amen.**

Now as the baptized children of God, let us pray as taught by Christ:

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we have forgiven those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,**

**for thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

**Thank you for meeting us in this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. We have heard You call our names. You have gifted us with mercy and grace, forgiving all of our sins. We have felt affirmed, accepted and included. We want to share these gifts with others. We want to love others as You have so extravagantly loved us. Grant us Your peace in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

Benediction:

Know that God knows your name.

God knows the struggles of your heart.

Know that God will be with you always.

The God who is Love, the God who is Light, The God who is a Gentle Breeze

be with you in these moments and always. Amen.